

*Whitehall*

Presteigne Urban District  
Council.

---

# Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the

Year 1938.

---

PRESTEIGNE :  
Beddoes, County Printing Works.



Presteigne Urban District Council

---

# Annual Report

Of the

Medical Officer of Health

For the

Year 1938.



WARDEN COURT,  
PRESTEIGNE,  
June, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Presteigne Urban  
District Council.

Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Eighth Annual Report as Medical Officer for your Districts together with the Report of the Sanitary Officer.

The health of the community has been very good during the year 1938.

For the first time the purity of the water has been infected. Owing to surface drainage during floods the intake was polluted. The contamination has been effectively dealt with but samples should be taken by the Sanitary Inspector as a routine, in my opinion this is the duty of the Sanitary Inspector and is a usual charge on the Council.

The Report has been compiled according to the instructions of the Ministry of Health as relevant to the District.

I remain,  
Your obedient Servant,  
R. R. WALKER,  
Medical Officer of Health.

### Public Health Staff.

Dr. R. R. Walker, M.D., Bch. Cantab.,  
Medical Officer of Health.

R. P. Morris, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector.

Both of the above are part time officers of the Council.

J. Proctor, Queen's Nurse, C.M.B., District Nurse.

Not under control of the Council.

### Special Conditions of the District.

The District is purely Agricultural, Presteigne being the Market Town for the disposal of the agricultural produce of the area. There are no industries except that of agriculture.

Area	...	...	2998 acres.
Rateable Value	...	...	£3828.
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	£15.
Registrar-General's estimated population at mid-year 1938	...	...	1102.

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

### BIRTHS.

		Males.	Females.
Live Births - Legitimate		15	9
	Illegitimate	—	—
Still Births	...	1	1
		<hr/>	<hr/>
Total	...	16	10
Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated Population ... 25·9			
Rate per 1000 total Live and Still Births ... 27·9			

### DEATHS.

Deaths	...	16 males.	10 females.	Total 26.
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population				10·0.
Death rate of Infants under one year of age			...	2
.. all Infants per 1000 Live Births			...	2
.. Legitimate Infants per 1000 Live Births		...		1
.. Illegitimate Infants per 1000 Illegitimate				
	Live Births	...	...	1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)		...	...	1
.. Measles	..	...	...	Nil.
.. Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	Nil.
.. Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)			...	Nil.
.. Tuberculosis	...		...	1

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

There are no changes in the services provided in the area.

- (a) Laboratory facilities are as stated in my last report.
- (b) Ambulance facilities. This so far has been adequate and there has been no difficulty in obtaining such service when required.
- (c) Nursing in the Home. The District Nurse is usually called in to assist in the nursing of patients.
- (d) Treatment Centres and Clinics. The Welfare Centre is open on 3 days each week, and ante-natal examination takes place as deemed necessary. Venereal disease is treated at Hereford on 3 days in each week.
- (e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary. As in my 1935 Report.

## **Nursing Homes.**

There are none within the District.

## **Sanitary circumstances of the Area.**

The water supply is in the hands of a private company for the more Urban area of Presteigne, the supply is plentiful and is usually of good quality.

6 samples (1 from river) were taken by the Inspector during the year. One sample taken on the 21st March, 1938, was reported on as follows—"There are few bacteria in this water and none of an objectionable type. From a bacteriological point of view the water is excellent for drinking."

On the 1st December a sample was again taken, this was after excessive rain and flooding from the river which flows through the valley where the spring is situated, this sample showed considerable pollution, the opinion given by the Analyst was as follows :—

"It will be noted that there are many coliform organisms present but characteristic excremental types are not found until a comparatively large amount of the sample comes under examination. This shows that crude sewage pollution as such is improbable. However, there might be traces of manurial material gaining entrance as earthy matter and although the water is not necessarily dangerous for drinking it cannot be regarded as satisfactory for dietetic use in its present condition. If chlorination is practical it might be considered advisable to start this at once, but in any case some treatment is desirable meantime while the source of contamination is being investigated."

The Water Company immediately proceeded to dose with chlorine gas and a sample taken on the 13th January, 1939, was reported on as follows :—"The bacterial content is low and no objectional micro-organisms of any kind are present in it."

The water is quite satisfactory for drinking as judged by this examination.

The source of the supply has been inspected and the conclusion arrived at was "That stock grazing on the land round about were the possible source of the pollution, there had been no heavy rain for a considerable period and the whole of the animal excreta remained on the land and was washed into the spring by the heavy rain and the flooding of the river. There is no sewerage discharging into the river from this point to its source.

There is a divergency of opinion as to whom is responsible for the taking of samples of water, the Inspector maintains that samples should be taken regularly and he has asked to be relieved of the responsibility if the taking of samples is to be carried out under instruction from the Council at such times as they (the Council) deem it necessary.

The Council maintain that samples should be taken by the Water Company and the Council be given the results of the analysis.

No sample has been taken since the 13th Feb., 1939.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

About 100 yards of new drainage has been added during the year and alterations to 2 manholes.

No extension has been necessary or any alteration to tanks or disposal.

## **Rivers and Streams.**

The River Lugg flows along the lower part of the Town and one sample was taken. The average number of organisms given in the report were as follows :—

- (i) The average number of organisms producing visible colonies on gelatine plates incubated at 20°c. for 3 days is found to be 1816 per c.c.
- (ii) The average number on agar plates incubated at 37·5°c. for 2 days is found to be 515 per c.c. No water from the river is used for domestic purposes.

## **Closet Accommodation.**

50 Pit and Bucket Closets were converted to the Water Closet system. There are still 10 to complete.

## **Public Cleansing.**

No alteration has been found necessary since my last Report.

Tabulated Statement under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Inspector's Regulations, 1935, or Article 19 (15) of the Sanitary Officers' Order, 1926.



## Table A.

REPORT as required by Article XIX of the Sanitary  
Officers' Order, 1926.

Inspections under—	No. of Inspections.	Informal Notices.	Statutory Notices.	Complied with.
Housing Regulations				
1930 Act ...	8	18	—	18
Housing Regulations				
Public Health Act	152	64	—	53
Workshops and				
Factories ...	23	1	—	1
Dairies & Cowsheds	116	—	—	—
Bakehouses ...	12	—	—	—
Slaughterhouses ...	106	—	—	—
Water Supplies ...	4	—	—	1
Infectious Disease	2	—	—	—
Nuisances Complaints	—	—	—	—

### Complaints—

Investigated	...	—
Letters written	...	112
Privies—		
Converted	...	50
Repaired	...	—
Infectious Disease	...	2
Cowsheds and Dairies	...	10
Inspections	...	113
Nuisances—		
Inspections	...	4
Work completed	...	4
Water Closets—		
Provided	...	50
Repaired	...	—
Drainage—		
New	...	100 yds.
Re-laid	...	40 yds.
Ventilated	...	—
Sinks repaired	...	—
Water Supply—		
Samples taken	...	6

Bakehouses—		
Inspections	...	12
Slaughterhouses—		
Inspections	...	106
Seizures	...	—
Houses—		
Erected	...	6
Derelict made fit	...	—
Inspections	...	160
Recorded	...	—
Work in progress	...	1

### **Factories and Workshops Act.**

Bakehouses	...	4
Blacksmiths	...	1
Cabinet Makers	...	1
Building Contractors	...	6
Cycle Repairers	...	1
Laundries	...	1
Motor Garages	...	2
Saddlers	...	1
Printers	...	1
Ironmongers	...	1

Number of Inspections of Factories and Workshops ... 16.

### **Shops and Offices.**

No action has been necessary during the year.

### **Camping Sites.**

Nos. 1, 2, 3. There are no sites that are used in the area, a single tent may be erected near a Farmhouse for a few days, the number of Campers at any time during the summer season would be negligible.

### **Smoke Abatement.**

There are no industries except the Gas Works and no complaints have been received and no action found necessary.

## **Swimming Baths and Pools.**

There are no Private or Public Swimming Baths in the area.

## **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

No action has been found necessary.

## **Schools.**

The Water supply and Sanitary conditions are adequate and satisfactory in the three Schools.

## **Housing.**

During the year the Council erected 6 dwellings for the purpose of abatement of overcrowding. No building was undertaken by private individuals.

Considerable improvement has been made in Houses during the last year, the 4 mentioned in my last Report were reconstructed and are now in good condition, and three cottages in the more Rural part will not again become occupied, the owner is prepared to erect one pair near by.

## **Housing Statistics.**

### **NUMBER OF NEW HOUSES ERECTED DURING THE YEAR.**

(a) Total number including those given separately under (b) 6

i. By Local Authority	...	6
ii. By other Local Authorities	...	—
iii. By other Bodies or Persons	...	—

(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts.

i. By Local Authority	...	6
(a) For the purpose of Part II. of the 1925 Act		—
(b) For the purpose of Part III. of the 1925 Act		—
(c) For other purposes	...	6
ii. By other Bodies or Persons	...	—

# 1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects under Health and Housing Acts and the number of Inspections made	...	68
2. Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and the number of Inspections made	...	—
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	2
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heads) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation		60

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	4
---	-----	---

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

### (a) Proceedings under Section 5 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served	...	...	—
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice	...	...	—
(a) By Owners	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority	...	...	—
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of Declaration by owner of intention to close	...	...	—

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	—
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice—	
(a) By Owner ...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owner ...	—

(c) Proceedings under Secs. 11, 14, 15 of the Housing Act, 1925.

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of a Closing Order	...	—
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	—
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	...	—
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	—
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	...	—

#### 4. NUMBER OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Distinguishing those built in the last two years and held	
under (1) Part III. of the Housing Act, 1925	...
(2) Part II. of the Housing Act, 1925	...
(3) Other Powers (overcrowding abatement)	6

## Inspection & Supervision of Food. Milk Supplies.

The number on the Register remains as in the previous Reports, all are well kept and regularly visited.

## Meat & other Foods.

There are 3 Slaughter Houses on the Register and these are regularly inspected and no action has been necessary during the year. There is no Meat Marketing Scheme under Part 3 of the Public Health (Meat) Regulations 1924 in force.

**ADULTERATION.** Samples are taken by an Officer of the County Council under the Food and Drugs Acts, all the work in regard to foods is carried out by this officer.

**NUTRITION.** Steps taken to increase the knowledge of the Public. At the Welfare Centre this matter is explained to the mothers who bring in their children.

### **Shell Fish (Molluscae).**

There are no such beds in the area.

### **Prevalence and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.**

There were only 2 cases of Infectious Disease during the year. The Medical Practitioners send in notice of such and cases are sent immediately to Hospital if such case is Scarlet Fever or Diphtheria.

### **Prevention of Blindness.**

There were no new cases of Blindness during the year.

### **Tuberculosis.**

There were no fresh cases reported during the year.  
The number of reported cases on the books at the end of the year was 20.  
There was one death.

**R. R. WALKER,**

Medical Officer.



